

The Bethel Courier.

A Weekly Family Newspaper, Neutral in

Politics, devoted to Literature Agriculture, Education,

the Mechanic Arts, and the News of the Day.

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The Bethel Courier.

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J. ALDEN SMITH, PROPRIETOR.
N. T. TRICE, EDITOR.

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BETHEL HOUSE,
BETHEL HILL, Me.

The subscriber would inform the public that
he has recently purchased this well known
House, and is prepared to accommodate the
travelling public with good board and lodging
on reasonable terms.

The above House has within the last three
months been thoroughly renovated and re-
fitted, and furnished from cellar to attic with
new furniture, and is a most desirable home
for travellers for business or pleasure.

A carriage in constant attendance at
the Depot for the conveyance of passengers.

W. F. LOVEJOY,
Horses and Carriages to let.

Dr. CHAS. C. BARKER,
Surgeon and Mechanic
DENTIST,
BETHEL, Me.
All operations performed with skill and care.

R. A. FRYE,
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at the
MILTON MINERAL SPRINGS,
D. D. W. ABBOTT, Proprietor.

DAVIS, HAMMONS & Co.
Dealers in
Dry Goods, Groceries,
Ready-Made Clothing, Hats, Caps,
BOOTS, SHOES AND RUBBERS,
Crackers, Glass Ware, Cutlery,
PAINTS, OILS &c.
1440 BETHEL HILL, ME.

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D. G. MARTIN, Proprietor,
RUMFORD CORNER, ME.

ALB. L. BURBANK,
FIRE INSURANCE AGENT!
BETHEL, ME.

Selected Poetry.

The American Flag.

Flung out the nation's stripes and stars,
The glorious standard of the free,
The banner borne through freedom's wars,
The hallowed gem of liberty.
On mountain top, in valley deep,
Wherever dwell the free and brave,
O'er graves where freedom's martyr's sleep,
Columbia's flag must freely wave.
Raise high the bright, auspicious flag,
From every height and lowly glen,
In forest dell, on jutting crag,
Afar among the haunts of men;
The sparkling banner widely flung,
Shall wave o'er land and sea,
And freedom's anthem sweetly sung,
Shall swell our country's jubilee!

O! let the world that flag behold!
The emblem of the brave and free;
The brightest crown of streaming gold
That decks the Goddess Liberty.
Spread out its fold, till heaven's dome
Resonate the holy sound,
That all oppress'd have found a home
On freedom's consecrated ground.
Flung out our country's banner wide,
Our emblematic, starry gem,
Our Union silver shall divide,
While floats the silken diadem.
Year after year the brilliant stars
Shall indicate the strength of all;
Yet all beware of civil wars,
That curse of monarch—freedom's fall.

WILD ANIMALS OF MAINE.

BY J. G. RICH.

NO XVI.

THE BEAVER.

"Castor Fiber."

This almost amphibious animal is now
chiefly confined to this continent, although
formerly, it was found in many parts of
northern Europe and Asia, but has be-
come nearly extinct in those countries.
Its body, from the end of the snout to
the insertion of the tail, is about three
feet long; the tail, or caudal paddle, is
about one foot long, one inch thick, and
five or six inches wide. Its teeth are
two incisors in each jaw, and a vacant
space between them and the eight upper
and under molars. These incisors are
no doubt what they chop their wood with,
and as they wear shorter by continual
use, the teeth grow out—for they are
from two to three inches long and arch-
ing in form, and protrude about one half
to three fourths of an inch outward. The
feet have five toes, exterior and poste-
rior; the forward toes are short and
close, and the hinder ones long and pal-
mated; being the only animal of this de-
scription known in nature. Its body is
covered with two kinds of hair, one out-
ward coating of hair two inches long
and glossy black—the inner coat quite
thick and downy, like fine silk. Its tail
is covered with scales and looks like a
fish. The meat of the forward parts of
the body tastes like land animals, and
that of the hinder parts and tail like
fish.

The largest beavers weigh about sixty
pounds. The beaver attains its full
growth at the age of three years, and is
supposed to live from ten to fifteen years.
It breeds once a year and has from two
to six at a birth, and even breeds before
it attains its own maturity. It goes
with young four months and brings forth
about the close of winter. Its food is
chiefly vegetable, and it will not taste of
meat, raw or cooked. In winter it sub-
sists mostly upon the bark of green wood,
which it has laid up in store for this pur-
pose, and it is also quite fond of fish.
The color of the body is a cream brown,
intermixed with black hair.

This animal is singular from all other
animals in several particulars: first, it has
a pair of glandular sacks between the
hind legs, (which, I believe, have no
connection with the organs of genera-
tion,) containing a substance quite odor-
ous, called castor, (castoreum) which
hunters call "barkstone." It is used ex-
tensively in medicine, and is quite val-
uable; but the castor which comes from
Europe is esteemed by medical men as
by far the most virtuous. This sub-
stance is worth about one dollar for each
sack, and the fur of the beaver now com-
mands two and one half dollars for each
skin—not many years ago the skins were
sold by weight, and brought one dollar
an ounce. Since that time the beaver
has given place to the silk rat, hence the
difference.

The savages are said to use the oil of
the tail for many diseases, and we know
they esteem it dressed and cooked, as far
above any other food you can offer them.
The second toe of their hind feet is armed
with double nails. They make a very
unequal gait in walking on the land, owing
to the sloping of the body behind the
centre, down under towards their
feet; and of their hind feet standing out,
which is an advantage to their pro-
gress in the water. They are also re-
markable for the great appearance of
reason they seem to possess. They are
more shy than the Fox, and more know-
ing than the Elephant. They are very
acute in their scent and hearing, and
naturally timid, with no way of defence
except in flight. They live in the en-
joyment of all the blessings of life, peace-
fully; and no doubt have a way of com-
muning one with the other. Their houses
and dams have been recently so well de-
scribed that I will not now go into the
particulars of them, but only add some
new items or ideas that I have myself in-
vented.

In the unincorporated Townships of
this County, (Oxford,) you cannot cross
a meadow or follow up a valley without
discovering the old signs of beaver.
Their dams on flat land, where there is
no current are always made of grass and
mud, but where there is a current, sticks
and drift wood are used. And where
the current of the stream is quite strong,
the dam is made bowing, and presenting
a convexity to the tide. Their houses
are situated immediately above the dam,
and are constructed of sticks and branch-
es of willow and other wood, with mud
and stones, all mixed together without
any particular method, except to leave
a hole to live in. They are built very
strong and are generally two stories high,
and have a window, or hole facing the
water up stream, apparently to admit
fresh air. They have holes through the
chamber floor to escape through, when
alarmed. And at such times they always
slap the water powerfully with their tails,
which arouses the whole colony. I think
this habit of slapping the water is not for
any particular purpose, but merely a
habit, notwithstanding others have said
that they do this while building, to
put a finish to their work. They always
lay with their hind quarters under water,
and on their belly, and some suppose
this gives their tail the fishy taste which
it is known to have.

When swimming, they keep almost an
upright position, their heads and shoulders
being above water. They gener-
ally congregate in the months of July,
and choose their mates and live to-
gether until April or May. They live
from six to ten in a house, and their
houses, if joined together by one partition,
never have a passage through. They sink
their wood for winter food, by means of
stones and mud, and not by any mysterious
way, as some have supposed. They al-
ways choose a locality for colonizing
where the water is deep enough not to
freeze clear through. In the spring, the
males leave their habitations first and
leave the females to take care of their
young a few weeks, when they all roam
about during the summer months, re-
gardless of their home. They can be
shot between sun set and dark, by lying
in wait for them, as they take that time
to swim out for relaxation. They work
chiefly in the night.

They seem to know how high the wa-
ter will be the coming spring, and build
their houses accordingly; whether this
be reason or instinct, it never fails. They
only seem to enjoy their full powers of
reason or intellect, when they are living
in society, and families, for when they
get strayed apart, from any cause, and
wander off alone, they seem to be as
dumbish as a musk rat, or any other ani-
mal. If a colony gets scattered, it is the
opinion of the hunters that they never
collect to live together again.

In our upper rivers there are now
many small families of beaver. I saw
new work on the Diamond river last year,
and a hunter informed me of beaver, last
fall, on the Cuscutuc river, and on the
Beamus stream, seven miles from the up-
per dam, there were a few, and I met a
hunter lost in the woods, trying to make
his way to hunt them.

I think beaver now choose very small
streams in the deepest recesses of the

wilderness to build their dams and houses,
since they have been so often dis-
turbed. They remind one of the na-
tive Indians. The white man is not con-
tented to let either live in peace on the
possessions given them by our common
Father.

The Beaver seems to be the last of the
genus "Castor," and they are fast dying
out, and will soon become extinct. In
the year 1743, there were imported into
London and Rochelle nearly one hundred
and fifty thousand skins. And in the
year 1827 the importation had fell away
to about fifty thousand, although four
times the ground was hunted over to get
them. And now there are very few beaver
sent to Europe.

This animal is truly a wonder in the
great economy of creation, and presents
to our minds the connecting link between
instinct and reason, indeed the knowl-
edge of the beaver seems sometimes to
be far in advance of the lower order of
the human family.

Northern and Southern Marksmen.

A correspondent of the Worcester Spy
having asserted that the Southerners were
superior to the Northerners as marksmen,
and suggested (a very good recom-
mendation, by the way) that premiums
be offered in every town for marksmanship
on the coming Fourth of July, Rev.
T. W. Higginson rejoins as follows:

"Agreeing entirely with your corre-
spondent of yesterday, as to the impor-
tance of rifle practice, I wish to say a
word in justice to Northern marksmen.
Perhaps it would have been more strictly
accurate if he had drawn his distinction
between Eastern and Western men,
rather than between Northern and South-
ern. The hunters of the Northwest are
as good shots as those of the Southwest,
while both surpass, in some degree, those
of the seaboard States. Nevertheless,
the rifle shooting of the Maine and New
York forests is probably not surpassed on
this continent, though I have seen it
equalled in both localities by that of men
who had scarcely touched a rifle till they
went into the wood.

This fact was well established in Kan-
sas, where, indeed, the Northern men
proved decidedly superior to their op-
ponents, not only in courage and endur-
ance, but as marksmen also. At Ossa-
watomie, John Brown and twenty-seven
others defended a log hut against thirty-
three and wounding forty-nine—eighty-
two in all, according to the pro-slavery
statement—and then retreated in broad
day, their ammunition being exhausted,
with the loss of but one man, who was
shot while swimming a creek. Capt.
Montgomery told me that in all his dar-
ing exploits, he himself had lost but one
man; and, although a native Kentuckian,
said he did not consider the habits of a
slaveholding community at all fitted to
create good soldiers.

The writer had several opportunities
in Kansas to examine windows and loop-
holes at which many shots had been fired
by Southern Companies, and was always
surprised to find the shooting no better.
Almost all had aimed too high, as inex-
perienced hands are said usually to do.

Those Kansas campaigns were very
instructive; and the final superiority of
the free State forces was unquestionable.
I remember that Gen. Lane spoke with
warm admiration of the military talent
and daring evinced by several of our
Worcester emigrants who had led the
most pacific lives till they went thither.

The saying used to be that Massachu-
setts men needed once to be shot at, be-
fore they could be convinced that the
enemy was in earnest; after which they
became the bravest of the brave. On
the other hand I remember how the lieut-
enant of one of Buford's South Caroli-
na companies rebuked his men, as they
were boastfully reciting their deeds, on
returning down the Missouri, in the same
boat with me. 'Boys,' said he coolly,
'you had better shut up. Whenever we
came in sight of the enemy, you always
took a vote whether to fight or run, and
you always voted to run.'

It is not well to underrate the courage
and daring of a portion of the Southern
army. But their general prestige of
superiority was dispelled by the Kansas
contest; and after the war has fairly be-
gun, the same result will follow again."

[From the American Agriculturist.] About Turkeys.

Who that has any savory recollections
of last Thanksgiving Day, or of Christ-
mas, and who that knows what large
profits can be made out of these birds,
does not wish to try his hand at raising a
brood this summer? Here are a few
suggestions on the subject:

Experienced breeders insist that for
raising good healthy broods, an old tur-
key is much better than a young one.—
A bird does not arrive at full maturity
until from two to three years old. Au-
dubon, the great American Naturalist,
says: "The third year, the male turkey
may be said to be an adult, although it
increases in weight and size for several
years more. The females at the age of
four, are in full beauty." It is well
known that when farmers have killed
off their old birds, and raised their
broods successively from young gobblers
and pullets, the progeny has grown
smaller every year. Chicks so raised
are tenderer, and more likely to die off
from cold and exposure. Hence the fre-
quent remark from sagacious breeders,
that you might as well think of improv-
ing your flock of sheep by breeding
them from lambs, instead of vigorous,
mature sheep. As a general rule, the
cock and hen should be three years old
and upward, and the two of different
breeds. Every year, the earliest hatched,
most vigorous, and best formed young
birds should be selected for future breed-
ers, and the others killed off when want-
ed.

During the Fall and Winter, turkeys
need only moderate feeding, but as
Spring opens, let the amount be in-
creased, especially during laying time.
Considerable pains should be taken at
this last period, to tame them. After
they have laid their first litter—say fif-
teen to twenty-five eggs—break up their
nests, but do it without their knowledge.
Continue to do so until they are hatched,
and in a fortnight's time, they will begin
to lay again. It is thought a good prac-
tice to turn over the eggs once or twice a
week. When they have laid their sec-
ond nest full, and show a disposition to
set, let them do so. Put their first lot
of eggs under a common hen, at the
same time; and when they are hatched,
give the chicks to the turkey-mother,
who will take care of both broods. The
turkeys should be hatched by the middle
of June, or first of July, at the latest,
so as to have them pretty strong before
frosty weather sets in.

Considerable pains will need to be
taken with young broods. At first, they
should be kept in a shed, or on a barn-
floor, where they will be warm and dry.
For the first few days, give them hard
boiled eggs, some curd of sour milk.
Then, afterward, for variety, feed a lit-
tle stale bread crumbs. When they are
a month old, give them Indian meal
mixed with warm water. Set pans of
sour milk where they can get a daily sip,
if they like. Until they are ten days
old, they should be housed at night, and
let out during the day. When about a
fortnight old, if the weather is then warm
and settled, it is an excellent plan to
make a large pen, a rod square, of boards
sixteen inches wide, and keep the brood
in that until they are able to fly over it.
After that, they will take care of them-
selves, only they should be fed once a
day to keep them from roving too far
and too long from home.

[From the New England Farmer.]

FOR SMOOTHING SEEDED LAND.—
Having noticed descriptions of several
modes for smoothing ground when seed-
ed, I will give you a description of mine.
Take two pieces of plank four feet long,
saw off like a sled runner, place about
four feet apart, and cover the bottom
with boards six or eight feet long, ac-
cording to the smoothness of the ground
it is to work on. Make two holes through
one board near the planks on the creek,
and through the planks, to pass your
chain to hitch to like a spread chain, and
it is ready for use. To use it, hitch a
pair of horses to it and get on near the
hind part, and if your ground is suit-
able to seed it will soon be as smooth as
a house floor after passing over it.

GRAFTON.

There is many a good wife who
can neither dance nor sing well.

The Delaware Grape.

Mr. Goodale, in his Report, ranks the
Delaware as the best grape for open cul-
ture in Maine. The editor of the New
York Horticultural pronounces it the
"King of the Natives"—possessing in an
extraordinary degree all the desirable
requisites of a grape for general cultiva-
tion, hardiness, vigor, fruitfulness, and
quality. Upon this last point, the editor
says, "all opposition to the Delaware
fairly breaks down. It ought to be con-
sidered an impeachment of a man's good
taste to doubt its superiority. We want
a class of grapes for a truly educa-
tional purpose; and the Delaware is the
only one that can be recommended for
cultivation. It is a successful in-
dustry; and the only one in which the
possesses these qualities, in a degree
degree than any other grape we have.
For the standard of the grape, it is
as the standard of the grape, it is
merit of being so. It is a class of grapes,
but also a class of grapes, it is a class
is pleasant to find that the Delaware
on one point at least, it is a class of grapes,
Delaware. Its melting sweetness, and its delicate
delicious sweetness, and its delicate
ous spirit, gladden the hearts of all
eat it. We claim for it the merit of be-
ing the first American grape to truly edu-
cate and form the public taste. But it
be said that all do not consider it equal
goods; we know there are some who
without denying its high qualities, that
that it has been over-estimated. Its ex-
cellence has certainly been underrated in
altered terms, and we must confess that
delight to sing its praises. It carries
a long way up the classic mountain,
makes us familiar with such food as
Olympians may be supposed to have
lighted in. With it we can be as
till another shall give us a taste of
thing more celestial."—*Mr. Farmer.*

To FARMERS. Now is the time for
farmers to make money.

A ball of wool, or a ball of yarn,
of peeing producers will become
ers. Flour, beef, pork, beans, &c.,
stantials—will be wanted in large
tity. Europe is convulsed, and the
cations are that there will be a g
outbreak across the water; if so, J
va must supply the armies of France
and England with food. Let the fa
prepare for a great demand; let
cultivator put in an extra acre of e
wheat, and carry his till to the be-
sible perfection; let every calf be
from the butcher's hands, for there
a great demand for beef. Every-
where, now is your time!

A NEW SOAP FOR WASHING CLOTHES.

Cut one pound of common
small pieces; dissolve this
of hot water. When the
oughly melted, add one
dered borax. Heat this
ing well. Cool this new
one pint for four gallo
which soak the clothes at
washing.

An imaginative Irish
ance to this lamentation
to the halls of my father
found them in ruins! I
fathers, where are they?
sponded, 'Is it you, Pat?
Peat, a quarter of
among the Portuguese
after they were defeated
tle, no less than four
tars were found on the
had abandoned.

The guitar is a fine
among the Portuguese
after they were defeated
tle, no less than four
tars were found on the
had abandoned.

THREE NEW REPAIRS.
No. 1. The wife of a man
Minor Corner, gave me
boys on the 18th of Jan.
are doing well, and I
furnish her quota of ge.

A mission to the
How do you do?
Pointing to four
savage answers
that me.

has accepted the
and CLOSER
of the government
son to retake Fort

has accepted the
and CLOSER
of the government
son to retake Fort

has accepted the
and CLOSER
of the government
son to retake Fort

ALB. L. BURN
INSURANCE
BETHEL.